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**Equestrian
Edition**



Talking Horses

The newsletter with news, views and practical advice

from the editor

Over the last 4 months, the outbreak of **Equine Influenza (EI)** in NSW and Queensland, and the mobilization of people and resources in an effort to limit the risk of the virus spreading to the horse populations in other states, has caused havoc, hardship and heartbreak to many breeders and owners of all types of horses. While equestrian interests were considered of little concern initially, the lobbying by the EFA and the multitude of pleasure horse clubs and associations, other than race horse breeders and owners, has helped the authorities realise the devastation and disaster that EI has brought to the whole horse industry throughout Australia.

In this issue, we provide a review on what we have learnt about the control and eradication of EI. We also update some new findings on laminitis and the high risk posed by certain types of pasture and 'high sugar' types of hay.

Over the last 2 breeding seasons, a number of pony owners have reported an increase in the incidence of Cryptorchidism, so we discuss the condition in relation to some new research findings.

And to complete this information packed issue, we include details on FREE fact sheets relative to caring for new born foals and weaners that provide helpful guidelines.

Regards John Kohnke

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New Website Service

Our new website www.kohnkesown.com is now available with a range of 30 fact sheets and back copies of 'Talking Horses' 1-12. You can subscribe to 'Talking Horses' by email as well.

Kohnke's Own

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THIS ISSUE Feature Article

➤ EI – What have we learnt?

Also a brief on

➤ Update on Laminitis – high risk pastures and hay

➤ Cryptorchidism – new findings

HANDY HINT

1

Pre-Cooling Before Exercise

During hot, humid weather, or prior to strenuous or long duration exercise, it is an advantage to 'pre-cool' a horse before working it. Simply sponging or spraying a horse over with cold water (cover the saddle) to wet its coat, especially under the belly area, will remove some of the retained heat from the skin surface. Once exercise is commenced, the water trapped in the coat will warm up and evaporate as the coat dries, drawing heat through the skin to delay the temperature elevation to normal exercising level (40-41°C) by up to 10 minutes – increasing comfort and reducing stress and sweat loss.

2

HANDY HINT

Caring for the EI Horse

When tending to EI affected horses, or even coming in contact to feed or groom a horse with EI, try to avoid 'breath' contact unless you are wearing a face mask that limits risk of you inhaling the virus. Studies have shown that humans can carry the inhaled virus in their respiratory tracts for up to 72 hours without any ill-effects. The virus can remain viable and be spread to horses when you exhale near to or into their nostrils, so wear a mask if you are concerned about spreading the virus between horses or when visiting a friend's horse – washing your hands and changing clothes may not be enough to prevent the spread of the highly infectious EI virus.

